

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /060 W

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P 052032Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6882

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 32954

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PINT FR

SUBJECT: MARCHAIS CLAIMS FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY (FCP)

SEEKS "GOOD RELATIONS" WITH USG

SUMMARY: IN LENGTHY INTERVIEW ON FRANCE'S TOP-RATED  
RADIO TALK-SHOW NOVEMBER 4, GEORGE MARCHAIS, SECRETARY  
GENERAL OF THE PCF

-- SAID, "WE WANT GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE AMERICAN  
PEOPLE AND THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT. WE ARE FOR A  
POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH THE  
AMERICANS;"

-- ATTRIBUTED THE ELECTION OF JIMMY CARTER TO THE WAR  
IN VIET NAM, THE AMERICAN "INTERVENTION IN CHILE,"  
WATERGATE, THE LOCKHEED SCANDALS AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

END SUMMARY

1. THE USG AND THE PCF: MARCHAIS HAS BEEN LETTING IT  
BE KNOWN THROUGHOUT HIS PARTY THAT THE ELECTION OF JIMMY  
CARTER WOULD REPRESENT AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INCREASED DIA-  
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LOGUE WITH THE USG. THESE RUMORS, TO OUR CERTAIN KNOWL-

EDGE, HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING FOR AT LEAST THREE WEEKS, AND MANY OBSERVERS HERE BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE PART OF MARCHAIS' EFFORT TO GIVE THE PCF THE KIND OF "RESPONSIBLE" IMAGE WHICH THE ITALIAN PC IS CURRENTLY CONSIDERED TO HAVE. MARCHAIS IS PLAYING A COMPLEX GAME IN WHICH HE HAS TO AT ONCE GIVE HIS PARTY A SENSE OF DISTANCE FROM THE WESTERN CAPITALIST DEMOCRACIES AND TO MAKE IT A LOGICAL POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR TO THE GISCARD GOVERNMENT.

2. "WOULD YOU GO TO THE WHITE HOUSE?" ASKED BY THE INTERVIEWER IF HE WOULD BE WILLING TO GO TO THE WHITE HOUSE IF PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER INVITED HIM TO DO SO, MARCHAIS ATTEMPTED TO PUT HIS ANSWER IN A CONTEXT WHICH WOULD CLARIFY CERTAIN LONG-STANDING PCF GRUDGES. HIS ANSWER TO THE QUESTION (UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION) WAS, "I AM FOR DIALOGUE WITH EVERYONE, BUT I WANT TO KNOW IN WHAT POLITICAL CONTEXT SUCH DIALOGUE IS SITUATED. FOR THE MOMENT I AM WAITING FOR ONE THING AND THAT IS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO AGREE TO GIVE ME A VISA TO GO TO THAT COUNTRY. AT THE PRESENT TIME I AM PROHIBITED ("INTERDIT") IN THE U.S. THE COUNTRY OF LIBERTY DOES NOT PERMIT GEORGE MARCHAIS, COMMUNIST, TO GO TO NEW YORK, THUS BEFORE GOING TO MEET WITH JIMMY CARTER LET'S FIRST SEE IF THIS PROHIBITION WHICH HAS BEEN PRONOUNCED AGAINST ALL FRENCH COMMUNISTS WILL BE LIFTED. AFTERWARDS WE CAN SEE WHAT HAPPENS."

COMMENT: PCF HAS A LONG-STANDING HABIT OF CLAIMING THAT ITS MEMBERS ARE SYSTEMATICALLY REFUSED ENTRY INTO THE US.

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USIA-06 /060 W

----- 117374

P 052032Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6883  
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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NOTWITHSTANDING EMBASSY EXPLANATIONS THAT PRIVATE VISITS, PARLIAMENTARY VISITS AND PRESS TRIPS ARE NORMALLY NOT REFUSED, THE PCF HAS NEVER MISSED AN OPPORTUNITY TO ATTACK WHAT IT CALLS OUR "EXCLUSIONARY" VISA POLICY. (NOTE: THE FACT IS THAT WHILE COMMUNISTS ARE LEGALLY EXCLUDABLE, THE EMBASSY REQUESTS AND RECEIVES WAIVERS FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR THE VAST MAJORITY OF FRENCH COMMUNIST VISA APPLICANTS WISHING TO VISIT THE U.S.). MARCHAIS IS THUS MERELY CONTINUING THIS TRADITION.

3. THE PCF IN THE GOF -- WHAT DOES THE CARTER ELECTION MEAN? AFTER LISTENING TO A CARTER DECLARATION THAT HE WOULD NOT BE OPPOSED TO THE PARTICIPATION OF COMMUNISTS IN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS EVEN THOUGH HE HOPED THIS WOULD NOT HAPPEN, MARCHAIS USED HIS STOCK ANSWERS:

-- IF THE FRENCH DECIDE TO PUT COMMUNISTS IN THEIR GOVERNMENT, IT IS "NOT UP TO THE AMERICANS TO PREVENT SUCH ACTION;"

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-- THERE IS NOTHING SURPRISING IN THE FACT THAT JIMMY CARTER DOESN'T WANT THE PCF IN THE GOF;

-- WE DON'T HAVE THE SAME INTERESTS, ETC.

COMMENT: MARCHAIS IS NOW SAYING PUBLICLY WHAT HE HAS BEEN LEAKING PRIVATELY FOR THE LAST TWO OR THREE WEEKS. WHILE RECOGNIZING AND INSISTING ON THE VAST GULF WHICH SEPARATES THE PCF AND THE USG, HE WISHES TO PORTRAY HIMSELF AS A MAN OF DIALOGUE AND REASON. MANY COMMUNISTS BELIEVE THAT ANTI-AMERICANISM ONLY HELPS THE PCF'S OPPONENTS AND SHOULD THEREFORE BE AVOIDED BY WHAT ONE PCF LEADER TODAY CALLED "THE KIND OF DIALOGUE WHICH LANCES THE BOILS." IN SHORT, THIS IS PART OF THE PC'S OVERALL EFFORT TO APPEAR MODERATE AND A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT.

4. EMBASSY ANALYSIS OF CURRENT PCF INTERNAL LINE WILL  
BE CABLED SEPTTEL.  
RUSH

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, COMMUNISTS, PRESS CONFERENCES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 4  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by hartledg>; APPROVED <18 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MARCHAIS CLAIMS FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY (FCP) SEEKS "GOOD RELATIONS" WITH USG SUMMARY: IN LENGTHY INTERVIEW ON FRANCE'S TOP-RAT  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, FR, US, PCF, (MARCHAIS, GEORGE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006